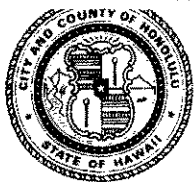


TO: CLK MAIN

FROM: COUNCIL DELA CRUZ

**CITY COUNCIL**

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065 / TELEPHONE 547-7000

OCT 8 6 56 AM '07

DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 2
CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH,
SAFETY AND WELFARE
TELEPHONE: (808) 547-7002
FAX: (808) 527-5737
EMAIL: dmdelacruz@honolulu.gov

For Immediate Release
October 5, 2007

Contact: Kimberly Ribellia
Phone: (808) 547-7002

Council Provides Relief for Farmers Affected by Waialua Wildfire

Measures provide real property tax relief and request the State to provide tax credits for farmers who suffered damage during the Waialua Wildfire

Honolulu: Wildfires in Waialua which have burned over 7,000 acres have prompted the City's efforts to provide property tax relief to farmers who sustained damages to their agricultural property.

Bill 77 (2007), introduced by Councilmember Dela Cruz, will remit property taxes due for property dedicated for a specific agricultural use provided that the property was damaged by the wildfire occurring the week of August 12, 2007 in the Waialua area. Land dedicated as vacant agricultural land will not qualify for this remission of taxes. Farmers who request remission will need to pay the minimum property tax of \$100.

"The City needs to provide every opportunity for farmers to recover their losses and the city can do that by waiving their property taxes," states Dela Cruz.

In addition, Councilmember Dela Cruz introduced Resolution 07-311 urging the State of Hawaii to provide tax relief to farmers who suffered damages to farmlands, farm buildings, crops and/or livestock as a result of the wildfire.

Farmers have stated that they have suffered over \$200,000 in damages as a result of the wildfire and are looking for government to make itself available in this time of disaster.

"The farmers are still suffering and they're going to need assistance - they have an extreme amount of damage from the wildfire," says Dela Cruz, "It is my hope that the City and State will provide relief wherever possible."

For more information please contact Councilmember Dela Cruz at dmdelacruz@honolulu.gov, or 547-7002



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ORDINANCE _____

BILL 77

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY TAXATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND
DAMAGED BY THE AUGUST 2007 WILDFIRE IN THE WAIALUA AREA.

BE IT ORDAINED by the People of the City and County of Honolulu:

SECTION 1. The purpose of this ordinance is to remit real property taxes due for the 2008-2009 tax year for certain agricultural real property that was damaged during the fire that occurred in the Waialua area the during the week of August 12, 2007.

SECTION 2. Real property taxes remitted.

- (a) The director of the department of budget and fiscal services shall remit real property taxes due for real property dedicated for a specific agricultural use pursuant to Section 8-7.3, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990, as amended, for the 2008-2009 tax year, provided that the subject property was damaged by the wildfire occurring the week of August 12, 2007 in the Waialua area. Land dedicated as vacant agricultural land shall not qualify for this remission of taxes.
- (b) The minimum tax of Section 8-11.1(g), Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990, as amended, shall apply to real property, the tax on which is remitted under this ordinance. In no case shall the amount remitted for a parcel of real property under this section cause the tax on that parcel to be less than the minimum.
- (c) An application for a remission of taxes pursuant to this ordinance shall be filed by the owner of the subject property on or before June 30, 2008 in the form prescribed by the director of budget and fiscal services. The director shall determine the eligibility of the owner for a tax remission upon review and verification of the application.
- (d) Any person who:
 - (1) Files a fraudulent application or attests to any false statement with the intent to defraud the city or evade the payment of real property taxes or any part thereof; or
 - (2) In any manner intentionally deceives or attempts to deceive the city, shall be guilty of a violation and be subject to a criminal fine of not more than \$2,000, in addition to being responsible for paying any outstanding taxes, interest and penalties.



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

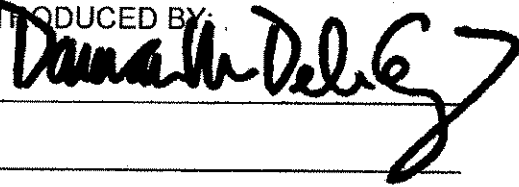
ORDINANCE _____

BILL 77

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall take effect upon approval and apply to the tax year July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

INTRODUCED BY:



DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

OCT 05 2007Honolulu, HawaiiCouncilmembers

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Deputy Corporation Counsel

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2007.

MUFI HANNEMANN, Mayor
City and County of Honolulu



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 07-311

RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE OF HAWAII TO PROVIDE TAX RELIEF TO FARMERS WHO SUFFERED DAMAGES TO FARMLANDS, FARM BUILDINGS, CROPS AND/OR LIVESTOCK AS A RESULT OF THE AUGUST 2007 WILDFIRE IN THE WAIALUA AREA.

WHEREAS, a recent wildfire in the Waialua area began on August 12, 2007 and persisted for more than a week, burning more than 7,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, the wildfire severely crippled agricultural operations in the Waialua area; and

WHEREAS, under the State of Hawaii general excise tax law, tax relief in the form of a tax exemption is provided for farmers who grow sugarcane or tree orchards and farmers who are members of an agricultural cooperative association; and

WHEREAS, it is the council's understanding that a number of farmers who suffered damages during the August Waialua brush fire were not eligible for any relief from the general excise tax; and

WHEREAS, relief from the state general excise tax is necessary to help Waialua farmers recover from damages from the August brush fire; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the State of Hawaii is urged to provide tax relief to all farmers who suffered damages to farmlands, farm buildings, crops and/or livestock as a result of the August 2007 wildfire in the Waialua area; and

**CITY COUNCIL**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAIINo. 07-311**RESOLUTION**

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawaii, the President of the Hawaii State Senate and the Speaker of the Hawaii State House of Representatives.

INTRODUCED BY

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

SEP 27 2007Honolulu, HawaiiCouncilmembers